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COMIC SHOP NEWS

Popeye®

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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Popeye's Making Waves at IDW

E.C. Segar's famous sailor has re-enlisted for a new tour of comic book duty!

This spring, IDW and writer *Roger Langridge* will bring back one of the most famous comic strip heroes of all time for a series of all-new adventures, produced under license from King Features Syndicate. ***Popeye,*** an ongoing series co-edited by IDW co-founder and CEO *Ted Adams* along with comics expert *Craig Yoe,* will feature original stories by Langridge with art by rising star *Bruce Ozella*

"I grew up reading Segar's Popeye and we'll be bringing his sensibility to our new series," Adams said. "Especially now with our all-star creative team, I'm really looking forward to launching this series in April."

Langridge has proven himself as a star among all-ages comics storytellers, having worked on ***The Muppet Show Comic Book, Thor: The Mighty Avenger,*** and ***Roger Langridge's Snarked.*** "Ever since I was a kid, the two cartoonists who have had the biggest influence on me have been *Carl Barks* and *E.C. Segar*, so getting a chance to write Popeye is quite a thrill," said Langridge. "I'm especially pleased that IDW have decided to go with a Segar-flavored interpretation. As much as I like some of the later versions of the character, for me, it's those early strips where the magic really happened. Just as well Segar drew everybody with big feet, because Bruce and I have some enormous shoes to fill!"

Many readers are more familiar with ***Popeye*** through the animated cartoons that redefined the character in the 1940s, the 1950s, and the 1960s, but the original character was introduced in *Elzie Crisler Segar's* ***Thimble Theater*** in the late 1920s. Popeye became so well known as the star of the strip that it soon became known simply as Popeye. His supporting cast—including Olive Oyl, Bluto, Wimpy, and Swee'pea—have become a part of popular culture.

IDW has enlisted another popular culture icon to supply a variant cover for the first issue of ***Popeye:*** *Jules Feiffer* supplies an all-too-rare cover image of the squinting sailor for the variant cover, while the primary cover by *Bruce Ozella* pays tribute to ***Action Comics #1,*** redone in that quirky Popeye style.

Image Lands Second Emi

It's been a year and a half since Image Comics first invited readers to visit the world of writer/artist *Emi Lenox* in the pages of their first ***EmiTown*** collection. The clever, sometimes quirky, always personal volume collected Lenox's acclaimed blog/webcomic/illustrated diary. And later this month, Image is inviting readers to pay a return visit to ***EmiTown*** when they release ***EmiTown Volume 2.***

Lenox told *CSN* that there have been some changes between the first and second volumes. "Two big differences are that I didn't draw the pages the day of —and my relationship *isn't* referred to with superheroes.

"I had fallen behind on ***EmiTown*** for a while because of other projects and to heal from the breakup *(spoiler!)* so all the pages were drawn over six months after the date," Lenox explained. "I thought this was kind of an interesting experiment because I could kind of orchestrate how the story was going to be told since I already knew what happened!

And because this was my first serious relationship while drawing ***EmiTown,*** it seemed natural that Tim (the boyfriend at the time) would be his own character in my diary comic."

Lenox is in an odd situation in that she shares personal details through the webcomic, and then shares them again a year or so later when they're collected. Does she ever find that things have changed by the time the print volume comes out? Are there any strips that she's felt the urge to rework or to remove? "All the time! Ever since the first volume, in fact. I am always improving on my art and it can be hard to see some of the older pages but I feel it's the most honest of who I was at the time. I drew like crap in 2009...and that is how it was."

As it turns out, ***EmiTown Volume 2*** will not merely collect online strips—it will premiere a substantial selection of original Lenox material. "That's because, since I fell behind and had to draw 200+ pages like a madwoman at the end of the year, I found myself with a lot of backlog... and since the book is coming out, I want the site to be somewhat caught up. The book will still have over fifty pages that haven't yet been online, so the print readers will see them first!"

Is it at all cathartic, sharing so many personal details with the world via a webcomic and a collected edition? Was Lenox ever apprehensive about being so open about the personal details of her life? "I think the cathartic part was drawing it. Having it out there doesn't do anything for me other than make me nervous on how it will be received! The only reason I felt any apprehension was for Tim reading it, since the comic might not put him in the best light. Because of this, I showed him all of the pages before anyone else so that he knew what I was putting out there and he had a chance for input as well. Because I have his approval, I'm not as worried."

Does this mean that we'll see more frequent volumes of ***EmiTown***? "Maybe? Maybe not? After *EmiTown Volume* 2, I will be only drawing three pages a week instead of every day. I think this is a natural progression since I need time to do other things and everyday is quite a challenge. I feel I've graduated from that challenge. So because there will be only three pages a week, it might take longer for there to be an ***EmiTown Volume 3.***"

Were there any parts of the book that were more difficult to share--things that Lenox considered not including? "I'm pretty open about most things. I guess the part where I am a pathetic wreck after the breakup was pretty humbling. I mean, it felt like page after page after page of pathetic-ness. We've all been there though, right? *Right??*"

Has Lenox changed artistically since the strip debuted? "I think I have for sure. I keep finding myself drawing cartoony-emi differently and having to redraw the roundness of the face. I think I'm reaching the next level! And I hope I have changed artistically. I hope I am always changing!"

Does Lenox ever see herself bringing ***EmiTown*** to a close? "I have thought about it deeply since finishing the second volume. But a large part of me couldn't just let it die. I want to have a diary comic all through my life. That's why I've changed to producing new pages three times a week!

"***EmiTown*** has changed my life by getting my foot in the door of comics," Lenox continued. "These pages are my first steps the published comic world and they've have given me many opportunities and confidence! I feel like if I died tomorrow, I left something behind that is me, that can potentially be around for many years.

"I have had readers email me telling me that ***EmiTown*** has helped them through hard times or even has inspired them to pick up a pencil and make their own diary comic! This is so rewarding for me. I never knew little ol' ***EmiTown*** was capable."

Does Lenox ever see herself collaborating with someone else on a different comics project? "I actually do have a project I will start working on this year in which I am collaborating with the novelist *Pamela Ribon* for a comic with Oni Press. I have also been working with another writer on a project that I can not disclose...let's just say *yes*! 100%!"

EmiTown Volume 2 (DEC110490), a $24.99 trade paperback, is slated for late February release from Image Comics.

Coming Comics—DC in April

The Man of Steel goes toe to tentacle with the all-new Brainiac for the final fate of Metropolis in *Grant Morrison, Rags Morales, & Rick Bryant's* ***Action Comics #8,*** the 30-page conclusion to the kickoff storyline.

Amadeus Arkham has been arrested in a New Orleans opium den! Jonah Hex has joined an anarchist group called the August 7! Nighthawk and Cinnamon are nowhere to be found, and they're the ones who dragged Hex and Arkham into this conflict in the first place! But someone must have a plan, right? Well, we'll learn the answer to that question in ***All-Star Western #3*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy*

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Buddy takes a stand as the horde of Rot-infested animals continues to grow and close in on the Baker family in ***Animal Man #8*** by *Jeff Lemire, Travel Foreman, Steve Pugh, & Jeff Huet.*

Before he was a part of the Justice League, Aquaman was Arthur, the man from Atlantis, and leader of a mysterious team of adventurers. Armed with weapons forged in Aquaman's past, these men and women were on their way to becoming the most powerful people on Earth – until it all came crashing down. Learn about them in ***Aquaman #8*** by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado.*

The metahuman thief and killer Grotesque has set his sights on the perfect woman to add to his collection: Batgirl! Witness the hunt in ***Batgirl #8*** by *Gail Simone, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes.*

Broken and beaten, Bruce Wayne has retreated from Gotham City – the city of Owls – to Wayne Manor. But no place is safe, because the Court is about to strike at the heart of city in ***Batman #8*** by *Scott Snyder, James Tynion IV, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion.*

The "Born To Kill" saga concludes in *Peter J. Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Mick Gray's* ***Batman & Robin #8*** as Batman and Robin find themselves beaten and battered emotionally, as well as physically, while the fate of NoBody is finally revealed!

Spinning directly out of the hit video game ***Arkham City,*** the new series ***Batman: Arkham Unhinged*** explores the world behind the game, focusing on both heroes and villains and their roles in ***Arkham City.***

"Superman Beyond" debuts in ***Batman Beyond Unlimited #3,*** joining "Batman Beyond" and "Justice League Beyond" in the lineup of DC's next-generation adventures.

Gotham City's citizens turn on each other all across town in *Paul Jenkins, David Finch, & Richard Friend's* ***Batman: The Dark Knight #8.*** But when toxicology reports turn up negative, it's left to Batman to determine the source of the problem, bringing him into an encounter with Tweedledum and Tweedledee at an entrance to the mysterious "Wonderland."

The battle between Batwing and Massacre crashes Gotham City as Batman, Robin, Batgirl and Nightwing join the fight in ***Batwing #8*** by *Judd Winick, Dustin Nguyen, & Derek Fridolfs.*

Kate Kane struggles with living multiple lives and how that affects her relationship with Maggie in ***Batwoman #8*** by *J.H. Williams III, W. Haden Blackman, Amy Reeder, & Rob Hunter.*

Rumor has it that Dinah Lance – a.k.a. Black Canary – killed a man with her sonic scream, and she's been running from the law ever since. But something far more dangerous than the law is hell-bent on taking down Black Canary in *Duane Swierczynski & Jesus Saiz's* ***Birds of Prey #8***: a cunning enemy who knows her every weakness, both physical and psychological.

The Blackhawks confront Mother Machine in *Mike Costa & CAFU's* ***Blackhawks #8,*** the series finale.

Blue Beetle confronts a predator who stalks runaway children in *Tony Bedard & Ig Guara's* ***Blue Beetle #8,*** the series finale.

Nathaniel Adam comes face to face with a future version of himself in *J.T. Krul & Freddie Williams II's* ***Captain Atom #8.***

Catwoman has a new running buddy named Spark, and together, they're taking Gotham City – literally—in ***Catwoman #8*** by *Judd Winick, Adriana Melo, & Mariah Benes.* And when these two thieves team up, it's twice the haul... and twice the trouble.

As more and more of the Challengers of the Unknown are killed in action, the remaining few must uncover the secret behind the talismans they've been collecting in ***DC Universe Presents #8*** by *Dan DiDio & Jerry Ordway.*

In ***Deathstroke #8*** by *Kyle Higgins, Joe Bennett, & Art Thibert,* Slade Wilson's past and future converge in the form of a bounce-back mission that reminds him why he started down the path as a mercenary to begin with.

Just how exactly did Madame Xanadu become the paramour of both Jason Blood and Etrigan, the foul demon trapped inside him? Readers learn the truth in ***Demon Knights #8*** by *Paul Cornell, Bernard Chang, Diogenes Neves, & Oclair Albert.*

The Scarecrow is after knowledge that only Bruce Wayne's investigative journalist girlfriend possesses, and he'll stop at nothing to get it from her. In ***Detective Comics #8*** by *Tony S. Daniel & Sandu Florea,* Batman must uncover Charlotte's secret past if he hopes to save her future.

The Flash gets pulled into the Speed Force that gives him his super-speed powers in *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato's* ***Flash #8*** ...and he learns he's not alone in there! Introducing Turbine, a prisoner of the Speed Force who just wants out – even if it means trading places with The Flash!

Jeff Lemire, Alberto Ponticelli, & Walden Wong present he Spawn of Frankenstein in ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #8.*** But when Frank finally comes face to face with his long lost son, the fallout may mean the end of S.H.A.D.E.!

In ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men #8,*** *Joe Harris & Ethan Van Sciver* introduce the all-new Firehawk, France's own atomic defender, and Hurricane, Great Britain's officially sanctioned Nuclear Man!

In *Ann Nocenti & Harvey Talibao's* ***Green Arrow #8,*** Green Arrow faces off against the enraged father of three beautiful sisters— but things aren't what they seem as Green Arrow must race to uncover the truth about this "family" before he becomes a monster snack – or a frozen corpse!

"Secret of the Indigo Tribe" Part 2! On the Indigo homeworld, Hal Jordan and Sinestro are trapped, powerless and on the run – with the entire Indigo Tribe in hot pursuit! Their situation grows even more dire when we learn the Indigos' deadly secret in *Green Lantern #8* by *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy.*

Art Baltazar & Franco kick off ***Green Lantern: The Animated Series*** with a tale that pits Hal Jordan against a captured Red Lantern and his own mentor, Kilowog.

The Guardians' plan to replace the Corps continues in *Peter Tomasi & Fernando Pasarin's* ***Green Lantern Corps #8*** as John Stewart is arrested by the Alpha Lanterns.

Arkillo, the most loyal of all the yellow ring wielders, has returned to Korugar only to find the Sinestro Corps is no more! The members of the corps have been rounded up and executed, and the yellow power battery is gone – all at Sinestro's command! But Arkillo is determined to create a new type of yellow power ring in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #8*** by *Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt.*

The Daemonites have taken everything from Cole Cash, who must make an unpleasant choice in ***Grifter #8*** by *Nathan Edmondson, Scott Clark, & Dave Beaty:* die at their blue hands, or kill his own brother. Cole will fight his way to his own finish line in the streets of Paris, amid the fires of burning alien bodies.

Hawk and Dove face down the mysterious Hunter in *Rob Liefeld's* ***Hawk & Dove #8,*** the series finale.

In the five years that the Justice League has been a team, Green Arrow has never once been a member. But he intends to rectify that in ***Justice League #8*** by *Geoff Johns & Carlos D'Anda.* Plus, in *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank's* "The Curse of Shazam" part 2, Billy arrives in his new foster home just as an ancient evil is uncovered halfway across the world.

The crossover with ***I, Vampire*** continues in *Peter Milligan & Mikel Janin's* ***Justice League Dark #8*** as Zatanna and Shade stand alone against an army of single-minded vampires, with their most powerful teammates out of the action! Then, in ***I, Vampire #8,*** the crossover comes to a dramatic

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

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end as the Justice League Dark team faces the end of all magic – and perhaps life itself. Only one man can challenge the dark force known as Cain: Andrew Bennett. He's back from the dead, but whose side is he on?

The JLI gets a surprising new team member in ***Justice League International #8*** by *Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan.*

In ***Legion Lost #8,*** *Tom DeFalco & Pete Woods* lay the groundwork for June's ***Teen Titans/Superboy/Legion Lost*** crossover.

Classic ***Legion*** artist *Steve Lightle* joins *Paul Levitz & Yildiray Cinar* for ***Legion of Super-Heroes #8.*** Yildiray Cinar, which features one tale starring Invisible Kid and the other featuring Cosmic Boy, Saturn Girl, & Lightning Lad.

Frankenstein guest-stars in ***Men of War #8*** by *Jeff Lemire, Matt Kindt, & Tom Derenick,* the final issue of the series.

Mister Terrific comes to an end with the 8th issue, guest-starring the Blackhawks.

Kyle Higgins, Eddy Barrows, Ruy Jose, & Eber Ferreira's ***Nightwing #8*** leads in to June's "Night of the Owls" Batman event. As Nightwing embarks on a mission to rescue the mayor, just how do Cameron Kane and turn-of-the-century Gotham City factor in? Plus: the untold story of William Cobb – the Talon who's hunting Bruce Wayne!

Checkmate confronts. Brother Eye in *Dan DiDio, Keith Giffen, & Scott Koblish's* ***OMAC #8,*** the final issue of the series.

Who is it that brings death to all on Ysmault? Jack Moore could not have become a Red Lantern at a more apocalyptic time. But what's worse: being caught in Atrocitus and Bleez's civil war, or taking the blame for the infection spreading throughout the Red Lantern Corps? Find out in ***Red Lanterns #8*** by *Peter Milligan, Ed Benes, & Rob Hunter.*

Someone has been following Mitch Shelley, the Resurrection Man, everywhere he goes. Someone has been keeping tabs on where he's been and what he's doing. But who? *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Fernando Dagnino* answer that question in ***Resurrection Man #8.***

Hawkman has a violent encounter with the beautiful alien shapeshifter Askana, who once tried to kill him! But in *Tony S. Daniel, James Bonny, & Philip Tan's* ***Savage Hawkman #8,*** she needs his help, claiming that agents from her homeworld have tracked her to Earth to terminate her. How can Hawkman trust her – or help her?

Static finds himself face-to-face with a woman who holds his future in her hands as he meets with the school psychologist in ***Static Shock #8,*** the series finale by *Marc Bernardin, Scott McDaniel, & Andy Owens.*

Apollo has fallen – and the invasion of the gravity miners rages on in ***Stormwatch #8*** by *Paul Jenkins & Ignacio Calero.* As the Earth ruptures from within, Stormwatch must scramble to unravel the mystery of the unstoppable gravity miners, creatures so alien they defy the laws of science! In Stormwatch's most desperate moment, what secret from Martian Manhunter's past offers the first ray of hope in this war?

A traitor stalks the Suicide Squad in *Adam Glass & Federico Dallocchio's* ***Suicide Squad #8!*** The saboteur's mission: Assassinate Amanda Waller, expose the Squad, and leave Task Force X in ruins!

N.O.W.H.E.R.E.'s plans for Superboy and the Teen Titans take a deadly turn in ***Superboy #8*** by *Scott Lobdell, RB Silva, & Rob Lean.* If Superboy wants to keep his head, he's gonna have to take down the bruiser once known as Grunge!

As the NYPD hunt her down, Supergirl takes refuge with a new friend named Siobhan... but the curse of the Silver Banshee loom over them both in ***Supergirl #8*** by *Michael Green & Mike Johnson,* with guest art by *George Pérez.*

Superman, agent of the Daemonites? How has Helspont bent The Man of Steel to his will? Find out in ***Superman #8*** by *Keith Giffen, Dan Jurgens, & Jesus Merino.*

Readers will finally discover the terrifying true potential of the Swamp Thing in *Scott Snyder & Yanick Paquette's* ***Swamp Thing #8.***

Wonder Girl is missing in *Scott Lobdell, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund's* ***Teen Titans #8.*** Red Robin desperately tries to find her, but he's got his hands full, as Superboy has announced his decision to lead the team, Solstice is still dealing with the devastating revelations about her past and Kid Flash is getting glimpses of a dangerous future that he thinks he recognizes!

Black Razor Agent Fallon has finally tracked down Voodoo and has her cornered! Now it's time for revenge. But Voodoo knows the truth of her own origins and will decide if she's going to be a hero – or a villain in ***Voodoo #8*** by *Josh Williamson & Sami Basri.*

Armor of Hephaestus? Check. The pistols of Eros? Check! But will any of it be enough to enable Wonder Woman to wrest an innocent soul from the grasp of Hades? Find out in ***Wonder Woman #8*** by *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang.*

DC collected editions (advance solicited for May and June release) include:

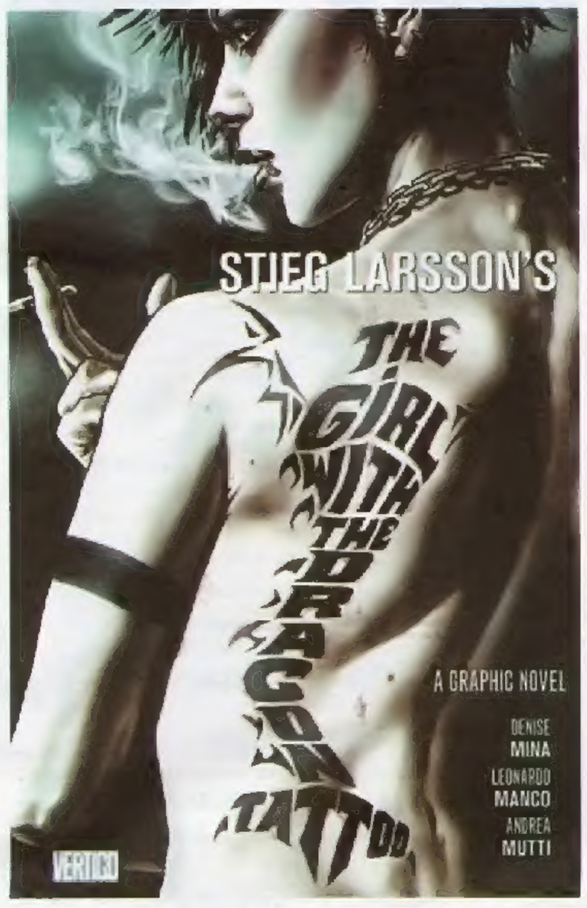
- ***Absolute Green Lantern: Sinestro Corps Wars HC,*** a 368-page slipcased oversized volume that collects ***Green Lantern #s 21-25, Green Lantern Corps #s 14-19,*** and ***Green Lantern: Sinestro Corps Special #1.***
- ***Animal Man Volume 1: The Hunt TP,*** collecting ***Animal Man #s 1-6.***
- ***Batman and Robin: Batman and Robin Must Die TP,*** collecting ***Batman and Robin #s 13-16*** and ***Batman: The Return #1.***
- ***Batman: Bruce Wayne—The Road Home TP,*** collecting the eight ***Bruce Wayne: The Road Home*** specials.
- ***Batman: Detective Comics Volume 1—Faces of Death HC,*** collecting ***Detective #s 1-7.***
- ***Batman: The Black Glove Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting *Grant Morrison's* ***Batman #s 655-658, 663-669, & 672-675.***
- ***Batman: Knightfall Volume 2—Knightquest TP (New Edition),*** which includes chapters that were not collected in the previous edition.
- ***Batman: Prey TP,*** collecting ***Legends of the Dark Knight #s 11-15 & 137-141.***
- ***Batwoman Volume 1: Hydrology HC,*** collecting ***Batwoman #s 0-5.***
- ***Brightest Day Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Brightest Day #s 8-16.***
- ***Catwoman Volume 1: The Game TP,*** collecting ***Catwoman #s 1-6.***
- ***Challengers of the Unknown Omnibus by Jack Kirby HC,*** collecting the 1950s tales from ***Showcase #s 6, 7, 11, & 12*** and ***Challengers of the Unknown #s 1-8.***
- ***DC Universe: Legacies TP,*** collecting the ten-part tale that spanned five generations of heroes.
- ***Green Arrow Volume 1: The Midas Touch TP,*** collecting ***Green Arrow #s 1-6.***
- ***Green Lantern: Brightest Day TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 53-62.***
- ***The Infinite Crisis Omnibus,*** a massive 1152 page hardcover collecting ***Infinite Crisis, Day of Vengeance, Rann/Thanagar War, OMAC Project,*** and much more.
- ***Justice League International Volume 1: The Signal Masters TP,*** collecting ***JLI #s 1-6.***
- ***Sgt. Rock Archives Volume 4 HC,*** collecting ***Our Army at War #s 126-139.***
- ***Stormwatch Volume 1: The Dark Side TP,*** collecting ***Stormwatch #s 1-6.***
- ***Legion Lost TP,*** collecting the twelve-part saga.
- ***Showcase Presents Sea Devils Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Showcase #s 27-29*** and ***Sea Devils #s 1-16,*** featuring work by *Robert Kanigher, Bob Haney, Russ Heath, Irv Novick, Gene Colan,* and others.
- ***Starman Omnibus Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Starman #s 0-16.***
- ***Superman: Grounded Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Superman #s 700-706.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in April

Calvin Poole survived the "Ghost War" in the Pacific, but in *Scott Snyder & Roger Cruz's* ***American Vampire #26,*** he returns to America with a secret: He's now an American vampire like Skinner and Pearl! And when he travels to a small town in Alabama to see his brother, he learns he's not the only one with a secret.

Well known chef (and dedicated *Paula Deen* critic) *Anthony Bourdain* tries his hand at comics with the original graphic novel ***Get Jiro!*** Co-written with *Joel Rose* and illustrated by *Langdon Foss,* this stylized send-up of food culture is set in a not-too-distant future of food obsessed L.A., where master chefs rule the town like crime lords and people literally kill for a seat at the best restaurant. Jiro, a renegade and ruthless sushi chef, arrives in town with strong ideas of his own. It's a bloody culinary war of epic proportions, and in the end, no chef may be left alive!

Brian Wood & Danijel Zezelj bring ***Northlanders*** to a close with #50, rounding off the epic, centuries-spanning tale of the Haukssons, Iceland's notorious organized crime family.



Vertigo offers an advance look at this fall's upcoming graphic novel adaptation of ***Stieg Larsson's The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*** with a promotional comic offering the first chapter of the *Denise Mina-Leonardo Manco-Andrea Mutti* adaptation.

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for May and June release) include:

- ***American Vampire Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***American Vampire #s 6-11.***
- ***DeadEnders TP,*** collecting the entire sixteen-issue run of the *Ed Brubaker* series, along with a tale from ***Winter's Edge #3.***
- ***Fables Volume 1: Legends in Exile TP (New Edition),*** featuring the first five issues of the acclaimed series with updated trade dress.
- ***The Sandman Volume 9: The Kindly Ones TP (New Edition),*** reprinting ***The Sandman #s 57-69*** and a tale from ***Vertigo Jam,*** all featured behind new trade dress.

Coming in May from DC Direct

DC's New 52 makes the jump from the printed page to the toy racks with the ***DC Comics—The New 52 Justice League Batman Action Figure,*** a 6.75" figure based on *Jim Lee's* ***Justice League*** designs.

THIS IS THE AVENGERS HQ!
WHY SO DARK? MAYBE THEY'RE NOT HERE!
OOMF! THEY'RE HERE, ALL RIGHT!
TEE A P!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-24-12
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Jim Lee's art is also the inspiration for the ***Batman Black and White: The New 52 by Jim Lee Statue,*** sculpted by *Paul Harding.*

Adam Hughes' stunning linework is the inspiration for ***Cover Girls of the DC Universe Raven Statue,*** a cold-cast porcelain piece sculpted by *Jack Matthews* and based on the variant cover art for ***Teen Titans #88.***

Kendra Shiera Saunders takes to the skies, wielding weapons both ancient and modern against enemies old and new—and her heroic image is reinterpreted by *Jim Fletcher & Sam Greenwell* in the ***Ame-Comi Hawkgirl V.2 PVC Figure..***

The Man of Steel stands ready to defend Metropolis, as envisioned by superstar artist Jim Lee. Sporting a faux-bronzed finish, ***The Superman Patina Mini-Statue*** is based on the sold-out full-sized version.

Paul Harding brings Hal Jordan from the TV screen to multidimensionality in the ***Green Lantern: The Animated Series Hal Jordan Maquette,*** a 12" tall statue that captures the heroic look of the animated hero.

Coinciding with the celebration of Mad Magazine's 60th Anniversary comes the legendary deadly duo in the ***Mad Vinyl Spy vs Spy 2-Pack!*** The monochromatic mayhem these two terrifically sculpted 9" figures will cause is augmented by the deadly array of weapons included. It's like the Cold War never ended!

Coming Comics—Dynamite in April

In ***The Art of Ramona Fradon,*** Dynamite offers a *definitive* retrospective of *Ramona Fradon's* career, featuring classic art and never-before-seen sketches. Interviewed by legendary creator *Howard Chaykin,* Fradon talks about her artistic career, accomplishments and creations from her early days at DC in the 1950's to her later work on Marvel's ***The Cat*** and ***Fantastic Four*** and DC's ***Plastic Man, Freedom Fighters, Super Friends,*** and more!

The showdown between Butcher and the Homelander turns out to be something neither of them expected, as all Hell breaks loose in the Washington skies in ***The Boys #65*** by *Garth Ennis & Russ Braun,* while MM teaches Hughie one last Secret History lesson.

On the way to an archeological dig at an ancient battle site at the "face" of Mars, Dejah Thoris and her party are stranded. They take shelter in a dead, ancient city infested with killer white apes in ***Dejah Thoris and the White Apes of Mars #1*** by *Mark Rahner & Lui Antonio.*

As Earth burns beneath the might of a Mongo-allied Third Reich, Ming the Merciless's domination plans are on the cusp of success in *Eric Trautmann & Daniel Indro's* ***Flash Gordon—Zeitgeist #6.*** With two universes at stake, the only hope lies with Flash Gordon, Dale Arden and Dr. Hans Zarkov. A

The rough-and-ready sailors who set out to rescue Jane Porter from hairy man-apes find themselves in need of salvation in ***Lord of the Jungle #5*** by *Arvid Nelson & Roberto Castro.* Lucky for them, they have the greatest action hero of all time on their side! Tarzan has already rescued Jane, but can he win the confidence of the men he is trying to help?

Scott Beatty & Ron Adrian take readers to scenic Mongo before Ming's rise to power in ***Merciless—The Rise of Ming #1.*** In this prequel to the critically acclaimed ***Flash Gordon: Zeitgeist,*** Prince Ming begins his rise to dominion over the entirety of Mongo! But who (or what) was Ming before he was 'Merciless'? Find out here as the origin of one of science fiction's preeminent villains is presented in all its diabolical details!

At long last, the Shadow returns to comics this spring, courtesy of *Garth Ennis & Aaron Campbell.* Set in 1938 New York, the new series captures the tone of the classic pulps. The first issue features covers by *Alex Ross, Jae Lee, John Cassaday, & Howard Chaykin;* incentive covers include original sketch covers featuring art by *Jae Lee* and *Alex Ross.* (See this issue's front page for more on this high-profile launch.)

As the end of one cycle in his immortal saga draws near, Dracula finds his 19th century 'anchor' in ***Vampirella Vs. Dracula #4*** by *Joe Harris & Ivan Rodriguez*—an anchor that he hopes might stop the repeating narrative he's longed to be free from forever. But he'll have his hands full, no doubt, as Vampirella struggles to find her own footing in this never-ending danse macabre.

Brandon Thomas & Craig Cernak take a look at the exploits of the quartet who would eventually become the legendary Voltron Force in ***Voltron: Year One #1.*** The series follows them as they embark on an impossible rescue mission against an enemy even they didn't truly understand... one that threatens the fragile coalition of planets they've risked their lives to maintain. Unbreakable bonds are formed and intense rivalries borne in the first chapter of "Fearless Leader"...

When Gullivar Jones's mystical rug is discovered Carter comes face to face with the legend in *Robert Place Napton & Jack Jadson's* ***Warriors or Mars #3*** as Gullivar is resurrected. Now, just as these two earth men come face to face, another threat looms with the return of Gullivar's greatest foes--the mysterious Thither people!

The dark angel Ragniel has won. Red Sonja flees for her life with the mortally wounded Nissa over her shoulder. Sara Pezzini finds the Witchblade is useless against Ragniel and his zealots have kidnapped her daughter. Drowning in desperation, Sara dives deep within the memories of the Witchblade in hopes of finding the sinful angel's weakness and comes to a single, undeniable conclusion. Her only chance of saving her daughter and mankind is for Red Sonja to become the bearer of the Witchblade—which is exactly what happens in ***Witchblade/ Red Sonja #3*** by *Doug Wagner & Cezar Razek.*

Dynamite collected editions include:

- ***Army of Darkness Omnibus Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Army of Darkness v1 #s 8-13*** and ***v2 #s 1-12.***
- ***Queen Sonja Volume 3: Coming of Age TP,*** collecting ***Queen Sonja #s 11-15,*** along with a cover gallery.
- ***The Shadow: Blood and Judgment TP,*** collecting the long-out-of-print contemporary Shadow series by *Howard Chaykin.*
- ***Total Recall Volume 1: Life on mars TP,*** collecting the four-issue limited series.
- ***Vampirella Masters Series Volume 7: Pantha TP,*** collecting material by *Mark Millar, Mark Texeira, Dan Jolley,* and others.
- ***Zorro Rides Again Volume One: Masked Avenger TP,*** collecting ***Zorro Rides Again #s 1-6.***

If you missed out on the *Adam Hughes* inspired ***Vampirella Statue,*** Dynamite offers you a second chance with the ***Vampirella Statue Inspired by Adam Hughes Manufacturer Proof,*** an 8" tall sculpture by *Tom & Joy Snyder.*

Coming Comics—Image in April

Mark Kidwell, Nat Jones, & Jay Fotos take readers back to 1968 Vietnam in ***'68: Scars,*** a four-part limited series. Saigon is in flames. Private Kuen Yam is alone and screaming. A handful of human survivors maintains a weakening hold on the only gateway to the skies and escape from Vietnam...and the muddy waters of the Mekong Delta churn like a hellish river Styx as the bloated dead rise from the depths.

Jonathan Ross joins forces with acclaimed artist *Bryan Hitch* to launch ***America's Got Powers,*** a six-part limited series that introduces readers to the biggest TV show on Earth, where the chance to win fame, fortune and get laid are dangled in front of a generation of super-powered teens. All they have to do is *win.*

The *real* Al Simmons—and the *real Todd McFarlane*—are spotlighted in ***The Art of Being Spawn HC,*** a 275-page tome that explores the the lives of Todd McFarlane, the character he created, and the man behind the mask of Spawn—the *real* Al Simmons.

Bloodwulf guest-stars in ***Avengelyne #10*** by *Mark Poulton & Owen Gieni.* Avengelyne Father Peter, Passover, and Heaven are transported to Hell, where they must fight their way out of its seven levels and find the unlikeliest of help.

The newly resurrected Bloodstrike team is sent against Cabbot's dad, the supervillain Quantum, in ***Bloodstrike #27*** by *Tim Seeley & Franchesco Gaston.*

Faced with the deadliest peril the universe had ever known, the world's greatest heroes left the Earth to battle a nightmarish evil... and they never came back. Now only their teenage sidekicks remain. Will the Danger Club unite against this unknown cosmic menace, or will their struggle for dominance destroy them? Find out in *Landry Walker & Eric Jones'* ***Danger Club #1.***

The new creative team of *David Hine & Jeremy Haun* debuts in ***Darkness #102,*** which finds Jackie Estacado trying to distance himself from the

SPIDER-MAN?!! WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!
WHY'D YOU SNEAK INTO THE AVENGERS MANSION?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-25-12
'CAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP!

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Darkness... but the actions of a rival mob may make that a bad decision...

John Prophet must cross the continent-sized starship of Sleepingman to save a creature who has crashed onto the world below in ***Prophet #24*** by *Brandon Graham & Farel Dalrymple.*

After deserting their galactic armies, former soldiers Marko and Alana must now protect their newborn girl from the lethal killers dispatched to destroy their family in ***Saga #2,*** the second issue of the new ongoing SF epic by ***Y—The Last Man*** creator *Brian K. Vaughan* and artist *Fiona Staples.*

A man gets shot in London, a law firm gets broken into in Washington, an accountant gives away the password to his computer, and something put to sleep 20 years ago awakens in ***Secret #1,*** the premiere issue of a new ongoing monthly series by the ***Red Mass for Mars*** team of *Jonathan Hickman & Ryan Bodenheim* that takes a deep look into the shadow world existing between the government and private security firms.

Spawn confronts Malebolgia in ***Spawn #218*** by *Will Carlton, Szymon Kudranski, & Todd McFarlane...* and what happens in these pages will change Jim forever.

Alan Moore's final ***Supreme*** tale is featured in ***Supreme #63,*** with art by *Erik Larsen & Cory Hamscher.* As Supreme romances Diana Dane, he takes her on a tour of the Citadel Supreme and tells all of his innermost secrets just as Supreme's most hated nemesis, Darius Dax, makes a most unfortunate discovery: the key to defeat his abhorred adversary!

Will Rick's community join the network? Will they enter into an era of unprecedented peace and prosperity – or has Rick ruined that for everyone? Has he now made more, deadlier enemies for them to deal with? Find out in ***The Walking Dead #96*** by *Robert Kirkman, Charlie Adlard, & Cliff Rathburn.*

Image collected volumes include:

- ***27 Volume 2: Second Set TP,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries.
- ***Chew Volume 5: Major League Chew TP,*** collecting ***Chew #s 21-25.***
- ***Forgetless: Live to See Last Call TP,*** collecting ***Forgetless #s 1-4.***
- ***Green Wake Volume 2: Lost Children TP,*** collecting ***Green Wake #s 6-10*** plus behind-the-scenes features.
- ***Hack/Slash Omnibus Volume 4 TP,*** collecting ***Hack/Slash #s 1-11, Hack/Slash Annual #s 2 & 3, Zombies Vs. Cheerleaders,*** and the ***Hack/Slash 2011 Holiday Special.***

ONE OF YOUR AVENGERS— THOR— HAS ABDUCTED MARY JANE PARKER.
THE ACTRESS?
I'VE MET HER. SHE'S A REAL LOOKER.
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
1-26-12

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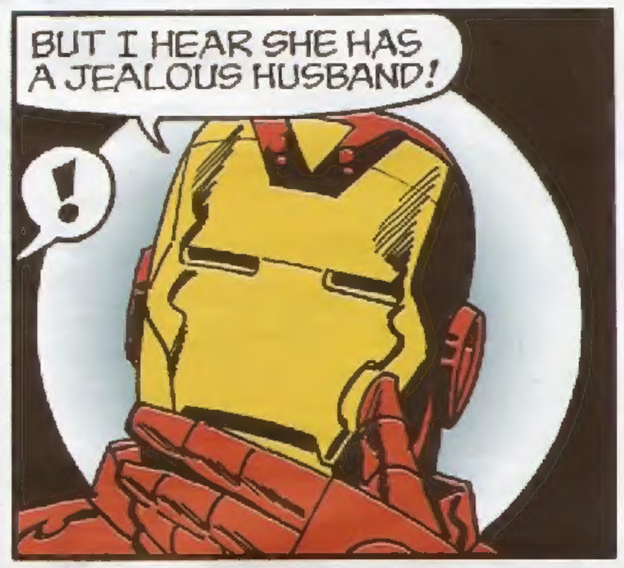

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COVER STORY

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WONDER WOMAN #8
DC Comics
Brian Azzarello and Cliff Chiang take Wonder Woman to — and beyond — the gates of Hell, armed to the teeth and ready to save an innocent soul from Hades! But what information is Hermes holding back which could aid Diana?

AVENGERS VS. X-MEN: VS. #1 (OF 6)
Marvel Comics
It's hero against hero in this premier tie-in to the *Avengers vs. X-Men* event, featuring titanic tussles between Iron Man and Magneto, and The Thing and Namor! Written by Jason Aaron and Kathryn Immonen, with artwork by Adam Kubert and Stuart Immonen!

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• ***Infinite Horizon TP,*** collecting ***Infinite Horizon #s 1-6.***
• ***Li'l Depressed Boy Volume 3: Got Your Money TP,*** collecting ***Li'l Depressed Boy #s 9-12.***
• ***Mysterious Ways TP,*** collecting ***Mysterious Ways #s 1-6*** along with a complete cover gallery, sketch gallery, and additional bonus content.
• ***Severed HC,*** collecting ***Severed #s 1-7.***
• ***Skullkickers Treasure Trove Volume One HC,*** collecting ***Skullkickers #s 1-12*** plus bonus material.
• ***Spawn: Origins Book 6 HC,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 63-75.***
• ***The Strange Talent of Luther Strode Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***The Strange Talent of Luther Strode #s 1-6.***
• ***Witchblade: Rebirth Volume 1—Unbalanced Pieces TP,*** collecting ***Witchblade #s 151-155.***

Coming Comics—Marvel in April

The Marvel event of 2012 kicks off in April with the release of *Brian Bendis & John Romita Jr's* ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #1.*** Does the return of the Phoenix signal the rebirth of the mutant species? The X-Men think so... but the Avengers are convinced that it's a harbinger of something far more ominous--and that means that a confrontation is brewing!

And if it's action that you want, then check out ***Avengers Vs. X-Men: Vs #1,*** an all-out action extravaganza that features cover to cover battles that expand on the contents of the main ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** issue each month. The first issue features a double-header: Iron Man Vs. Magneto and Thing Vs. Namor.

Avengers Vs. X-Men tie-ins for April include:
• ***Avengers #25*** *(Brian Bendis & Walt Simonson):* Captain America declares war on the X-Men.
• ***New Avengers #24*** *(Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato):* Wolverine is forced to choose a side.
• ***New Avengers #25*** *(Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato):* Iron Fist discovers that he has a connection with the cosmic Phoenix Force.
• ***Secret Avengers #26*** *(Rick Remender & Renato Guedes):* Thor leads a secret team on a suicide mission to stop the Phoenix.
• ***Uncanny X-Men #11*** *(Kieron Gillen & Greg Land):* Cyclops lead the X-Men to their toughest battle yet, while Colossus takes on the Red Hulk.
• ***Wolverine & The X-Men #9*** *(Jason Aaron & Chris Bachalo):* With Wolverine torn between two teams, will the Jean Grey School follow its leader... once he decides where he's going?

Spidey and the Avengers team up to take on Dock Ock and the Sinister Six in ***Amazing Spider-Man #683*** by *Dan Slott & Stefano Caselli.* Then, in #684, the action moves to the Middle East as Spidey confronts the Sandman (and he's *not* the guy you want to battle in the middle of a desert...).

Spidey's early days are the focus of ***Amazing Spider-Man Volume 1: Behind the Mask,*** a young readers prose novel by *Patrick Scherberger.*

Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley reveal more details about the new members of the Zodiac in ***Avengers Assemble #2,*** an in-continuity title featuring the heroes of the upcoming ***Avengers*** film.

Marvel launches its new line of all-ages books with ***The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes Adventures #1*** and ***Ultimate Spider-Man Adventures #1.***

Marvel Studios takes readers behind the scenes of this summer's super-team film in ***Avengers: The Art of the Avengers,*** an upscale-format slipcased hardcover.

Avengers: The Coming of the Avengers #1 reprints the classic *Stan Lee-Jack Kirby* 1963 premiere issue, digitally remastered and recolored.

Want a handy guide to your Avengers team members and enemies? Then check out ***Avengers: Roll Call,*** a 64-page handbook spotlighting good guys, bad guys, the stars of the upcoming film, and more.

Marcus Johnson discovers the truth about himself in ***Battle Scars #6*** by *Christopher Yost, Matt Fraction, Cullen Bunn, & Scot Eaton.* but what does it all have to do with Nick Fury?

Captain America and Bucky undergoes a name change—and a series refocus—with April's ***Captain America and Hawkeye #629,*** which kicks off the Cap equivalent of ***Marvel Team-Up,*** with different teamups (and new titles) in each story arc.

Daredevil confronts a cabal of villainous secret societies dedicated to ending the crimefighting career of the Man Without Fear in ***Daredevil #10.1*** by *Mark Waid & Khoi Pham.*

Antony Johnston & Wellington Alves retell the origin and early exploits of the Man Without Fear in ***Daredevil Season One Premiere HC.***

One Thousand Years In The Future, Who Are The Fantastic Four? *Jonathan Hickman & Ron Garney* answer that question in ***Fantastic Four #605.***

Now that he's back among the living, the Torch moves in with Spidey in ***FF #17*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Nick Dragotta.* Can this odd couple make it work without driving one another crazy?

Who—or what—is the dark figure hunting Red Hulk? Find out in ***Hulk #50*** by *Jeff Parker & Carlo Pagulayan.*

The God of Thunder is back on Earth, ready to make up for lost time, in ***The Mighty Thor #12.1*** by *Matt Fraction & Pepe Larraz.* And that's not the only thing that's changed: his father is in exile, his mother is on the throne... and not only is Thor on Earth, but so is Dr. Donald Blake!

Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev bring the Moon Knight's mad exploits to an end in ***Moon Knight #12.***

Mark Waid & Greg Rucka kick off ***The Omega Effect*** in April; this storyline, which runs through ***Avenging Spider-Man #6 The Punisher #10,*** and ***Daredevil #11.***

Mark Millar & Dave Gibbons blend contemporary global politics, a world in transition, and superhero action in ***The Secret Service #1.*** Millar says that "the hero and sidekick guys who lead the book are, I think, the best characters I've written."

J. Michael Straczynski & Chris Weston reveal all the answers to all the mysteries in ***The Twelve #12...*** and Marvel promises that you'll be stunned

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by what's next!...

The X-Men confront Unit, the galactic genocidal fugitive, in *Kieron Gillen & Carlos Pacheco's* ***Uncanny X-Men #10.***

Venom joins the Secret Avengers in *Rick Remender & Lan Medina's* ***Venom #15...*** and Eddie Brock shows up, gunning for symbiotes.

Jason Aaron wraps up his Logan run in ***Wolverine #304,*** which finds Wolverine on the trail of Sabretooth. Then new writer *Cullen Bunn* debuts in ***Wolverine #305.***

Sabretooth confronts the Beast in a brutal fight to the finish in ***Wolverine & the X-Men #8*** by *Jason Aaron & Chris Bachalo.*

Monet calls Layla out in ***X-Factor #234*** by *Peter David & Leonard Kirk*—and a departed member of X-Factor makes a surprising return.

Marvel collected editions include:

•***Amazing Spider-Man: Hooky,*** a comic-sized reprint of the 1980s *Susan Putney-Bernie Wrightson* graphic novel.

•***Astonishing X=Men: Exiles Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Astonishing X-Men #s 44-47*** and more.

•***Avengers Assemble Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Avengers (1998) #s 24-34, Annual 2000,*** and ***Thunderbolts #s 42-44.***

•***The Avengers: Prelude TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.

•***Avengers Vs. X-Men: It's Coming TP,*** collecting ***The Children's Crusade #7, Schism #5, Magneto: Not a Hero #1, X-Men: Second Coming #1,*** and much more.

•***Avengers: West Coast Avengers—Zodiac Attack Premiere HC,*** collecting ***West Coast Avengers #s 25-30*** and more.

•***Avengers: X-Sanction Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-part limited series.

•***Black Panther: The Most Dangerous Man Alive—The Kingpin of Wakanda TP,*** collecting ***Black Panther #s 523.1 & 525-529.***

•***Daken: Dark Wolverine—Big Break TP,*** collecting ***Dark Wolverine #s 9.1 & 10-12.***

•***Darkhawk Classic Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Darkhawk #s 1-9.***

•***Dark Tower: The Battle of Jericho Hill TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

•***Emma TP,*** collecting the five-part *Jane Austen* adaptation.

•***Essential Avengers Volume 8 TP,*** collecting ***Avengers #s 164-184 & Annuals 7-8*** and ***Marvel Two-In-One Annual #2.***

•***Fear Itself: The Home Front HC,*** collecting the seven-part miniseries.

•***Fear Itself: Uncanny X-Force/The Deep Premiere HC,*** collecting both miniseries.

•***Fear Itself: Wolverine/New Mutants Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Fear Itself: Wolverine #s 1-3*** and ***New Mutants #s 29-32.***

•***Goldfish HC,*** a redesigned, reformatted, and reworked version of the collection both written and illustrated by *Brian Bendis.*

•***Incredible Hulk: Pardoned TP,*** collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 269-285.***

•***Marvel Masterworks: The Amazing Spider-Man Volume 14 HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 132-142*** and more.

•***Marvel Masterworks: Daredevil Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Daredevil #s 22-32 & Annual #1.***

•***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Marvel Comics Volume 7 HC,*** collecting ***Marvel Mystery Comics #s 25-28,*** featuring work by *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Mickey Spillane, Bill Everett, Sid Greene, Carl Burgos,* and more.

•***New Mutants: A Date With The Devil Premiere HC,*** collecting ***New Mutants #s 33-37.***

•***New Mutants Volume 4: Unfinished Business TP,*** collecting ***New Mutants #s 25-28.***

•***Powers Volume 6: The Sellouts Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Powers (2005) #s 25-30.***

•***PunisherMAX: Frank TP,*** collecting ***PunisherMAX #s 12-16.***

•***PunisherMAX: Homeless Premiere HC,*** collecting ***PunisherMAX #s 17-22.***

•***Red Hulk: Hulk of Arabia TP,*** collecting ***Hulk #s 42-46.***

•***Secret Warriors Omnibus HC,*** collecting ***Secret Warriors #s 1-28*** and much more.

•***Six Guns TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

•***Spider-Man: The Complete Ben Reilly Epic Book 4 TP,*** collecting 464 pages of Ben Reilly drama and adventure.

•***Spider-Man: Flying Blind Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 674-677*** and ***Daredevil #8.***

•***Spider-Man: Return of the Burglar Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 193-200.***

•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man Volume 4: Death of Spider-Man,*** collecting the historic *Brian Bendis-Mark Bagley* arc from ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #s 156-160.***

•***Ultimate Comics X: Origins TP,*** collecting ***Ultimate Comics X #s 1-5.***

•***Wolverine & the X-Men by Jason Aaron Volume 1 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine & the X-Men #s 1-4.***

•***Wolverine's Revenge TP,*** collecting ***Wolverine #s 10-16.***

•***X-Factor Volume 13: Hard Labor TP,*** collecting ***X-Factor #s 220-224.***

•***X-Men: Beauty & the Beast Premiere HC,*** collecting the ***Dazzler*** graphic novel, ***Beauty & the Beast #s 1-4,*** and more.

•***X-Men: Dark Phoenix Saga TP,*** collecting ***X-Men #s 129-138, Phoenix: The Untold Story,*** and material from ***Classic X-Men #43, Bizarre Adventures #27,*** and ***What If #27.***

•***X-Men: The Hidden Years Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***X-Men: The Hidden Years #s 1-12*** and material from ***X-Men #94.***

MARVEL
X-FACTOR
X-MEN:
BEAUTY & THE BEAST
Beauty AND THE BEAST
MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #12: DAZZLER – THE MOVIE. BEAUTY & THE BEAST #1-4 AND MATERIAL FROM MARVEL HEARTBREAKERS #1
SHOOTER • NOCENTI • MCCANN
SPRINGER • PERLIN • LOPEZ

•***X-Men: Legacy—Lost Legions TP,*** collecting ***X-Men: Legacy #s 250-253.***

•***X-Men: War Machines Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Men #s 20-23.***

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THE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR US ON THE WEST COAST.
WE WERE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF WHEN YOU SHOWED UP.
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
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